

Appl. No. 10/675,053
Amtd. Dated 27 April 2006
Reply to Office Action of 29 December 2005

Attorney Docket No. 26.0239 US
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REMARKS

Claims 1-51 are pending in this application. Claims 48-51 are withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner pursuant to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Applicants respectfully point out that the drawings do not include reference numerals 66 and 68, and believe the Examiner is in fact referring to reference numerals 166 and 168 in Figure 4, which are mentioned in the description on page 12, paragraph [0031]. Therefore, applicants request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Applicants have amended the specification (shown in the Amendments to the Specification attached hereto) to address the informalities noted by the Examiner in the Office Action. In this, the Abstract has been corrected as required by the Examiner. The typographical error on page 6, line 2 of paragraph [0017] has been corrected. The trademark RADEL®-R has been capitalized and its generic name polyphenylsulfone has been provided. Definitions of "d31 effect" and "d33 effect" have been provided based on common understanding of the terms. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner approve the amendments to the specification.

Claims 2, 5, 10, 15, 35, and 45 are objected to because of informalities in the claims. Claims 2, 5, 7 and 35 have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. As noted above, definitions of "d31 effect" and "d33 effect" have been provided. Applicants request the objections to claims 2, 5, 10, 15, 35 and 45 be withdrawn.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 11-13. Independent claims 1, 22, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Aron et al. (US 5,753,812) and independent claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Birchak et al. (US 6,354,146) in view of Shirley et al. (US 4,525,645). The claims depending from the aforementioned independent claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over various reference cited by the Examiner.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 22, 38 and 43 (shown in the Listing of Claims attached hereto) in order to more particularly and completely claim the present invention.

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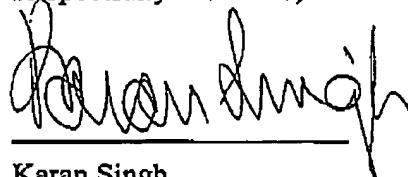
No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration of the rejections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1, 22, 38 and 43 have been amended to clarify that the cylindrical element is a "hollow" element, as shown in, for example, Figure 3. Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 22, 38 and 43, as amended, are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record. The claims depending from independent claims 1, 22, 38 and 43 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as stated above.

In light of the above remarks, applicants believe that the present application and claims 1-47 are in proper condition for allowance. Such allowance is earnestly requested.

In the event that any additional fees or credits are due owing to this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount necessary to cover any fee that may be due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1122.

Respectfully submitted,



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